In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) was enacted and notified on 11th January, 2007.

Also awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in this connection.

Legislation for criminal indulging in sexual exploitation of women and minor girls

†309. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to make any stringent legislation to deal with the criminals indulging in sexual exploitation and various other types of harassment of women and minor girls, and also to stop such crimes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is the premier legislation for preventing trafficking of persons including women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. The Act is now proposed to be further amended to impose more stringent penalties for traffickers and other perpetrators of the crime and also delete those provisions which result in re-victimization of the victim. The proposed Amendments are being processed for approval by competent authorities.

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 123 of the Constitution, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No.8 of 2008) dated the 13th October, 2008. [Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 8962/08]

Notification of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(1) S.O. No. 82(E) dated the 14th January, 2008, specifying Tax Free Pooled Finance Development Bonds under Pooled Finance Development Fund Scheme to be issued by Water and Sanitation Pooled Fund, Tamil Nadu.

(2) S.O. No. 91 (E) dated the 15th January, 2008, notifying the Commonwealth Games Federation, United Kingdom as the person and the Commonwealth Games, 2010 to be held in India as the International Sporting event for the purposes of sub-section 39 of Section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. [Placed in Library. For (1) and (2). *See* No.L.T. 8917/08]

(3) S.O. No. 493 (E) dated the 13th March, 2008, publishing Income-Tax (4th Amendment) Rules, 2008.

(4) S.O. No. 547 (E) dated the 24th March, 2008, notifying Income-tax (5th Amendment) Rules, 2008.

(5) S.O. No. 752 (E) dated the 28th March, 2008, notifying the Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2008. [Placed in Library. For (3) to (5) *See* No.L.T. 8916/08]

(6) S.O. No. 1605 (E) dated the 2nd July, 2008, notifying Industrial Park (Amendment) Scheme, 2008. [Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 8918/08]

(7) S.O. 2037 (E), dated the 13th August, 2008, specifying the Cost Inflation Index (CII) as 582 for the Finance year, 2008-09 for the purposes of Section 48 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. [Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 8919/08]

(8) S.O. 2115 (E), dated the 27th August, 2008, notifying the benefits of Section 80-IC(2)(a)(ii) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 to some areas of the State of Himachal Pradesh. [Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 8920/08]

Report and Accounts (2006-07) of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati and related Papers

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

(i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under section 21 of the Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980:

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2006-2007, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(ii) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 8927/08]